

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Oct. 12, 2005

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 40 NEW JOBS FOR RANDOLPH COUNTY
One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps StarPet Expand its Facility in Asheboro

RALEIGH- Gov. Mike Easley today announced that StarPet, makers of polymer resins used in food and beverage packaging, will expand its facility in Asheboro, creating 40 new jobs and investing \$44 million during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$75,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“StarPet’s decision to expand its facility in Randolph County will enhance North Carolina’s already strong presence in the plastics industry,” Easley said. “We will continue to make smart investments in workforce development, education and infrastructure that will ensure that our state remains competitive in this industry.”

StarPet is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indorama Polymers PLC, based in Thailand. The Asheboro location, its only U.S. facility, manufactures polyethylene terephthalate (PET) polymer resins used in food and beverage containers such as soda, water and juice bottles. While individual wages will vary, the average weekly wage for the new jobs is \$765 plus benefits, which is higher than the Randolph County average weekly wage of \$537 plus benefits.

“Continued growth of our business has made it necessary to expand our operations in North America,” said Anil Lohia, chief executive officer of StarPet. “Asheboro is the logical choice for our expansion since we have a dedicated and highly-skilled team to build on from the outstanding workforce available in this area. The business-friendly climate in North Carolina and support from local and state authorities further convinced us that this location was the right choice.”

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in recruiting and expanding quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Department of Transportation, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, Asheboro City Council, the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

For information about StarPet or potential job opportunities, email the company at employment@starpetinc.com.